

LAWN AND GARDEN

Spring means yard cleanup

Spend an afternoon checking to make sure your house and garden survived winter

The warmer days can only mean one thing — it's time to clean up from winter.

Before going outside to survey any damage, take a trip to the garage and organize your tools. You're going to need them, so why not have them ready to go before hand?

Next, check the condition of your gutters, mailbox post, fences and shutters. If any of these are showing signs of decay, now is the best time to replace or repair them.

Furniture, which has been outdoors during the winter months, may need a good cleaning. Plastic outdoor furniture probably will benefit from a good scrubbing using a water and bleach solution or even a dousing with the power washer.

Wooden furniture should be checked for splin-

ters and decay.

Check around the sides and back of your home to see if your flower beds, shrubs and trees survived the winter months. Are they ready for the spring months ahead, or do they need some tender loving care?

"Many varieties of shrubs need to be trimmed back in the spring to stimulate growth," said John Mansz, with The Home Depot.

"This is also the time to get rid of broken or dead branches and replace shrubs which did not make it through the winter."

Don't forget to check the roof for missing shingles. If any have come loose, nail them back down. Missing shingles should be replaced, but first make sure the tar-paper underneath is still in place. While you're up on the roof, give your gutters a good cleaning.

CHECK AROUND THE SIDES AND BACK OF YOUR HOME TO SEE IF YOUR FLOWER BEDS, SHRUBS AND TREES SURVIVED THE WINTER MONTHS.

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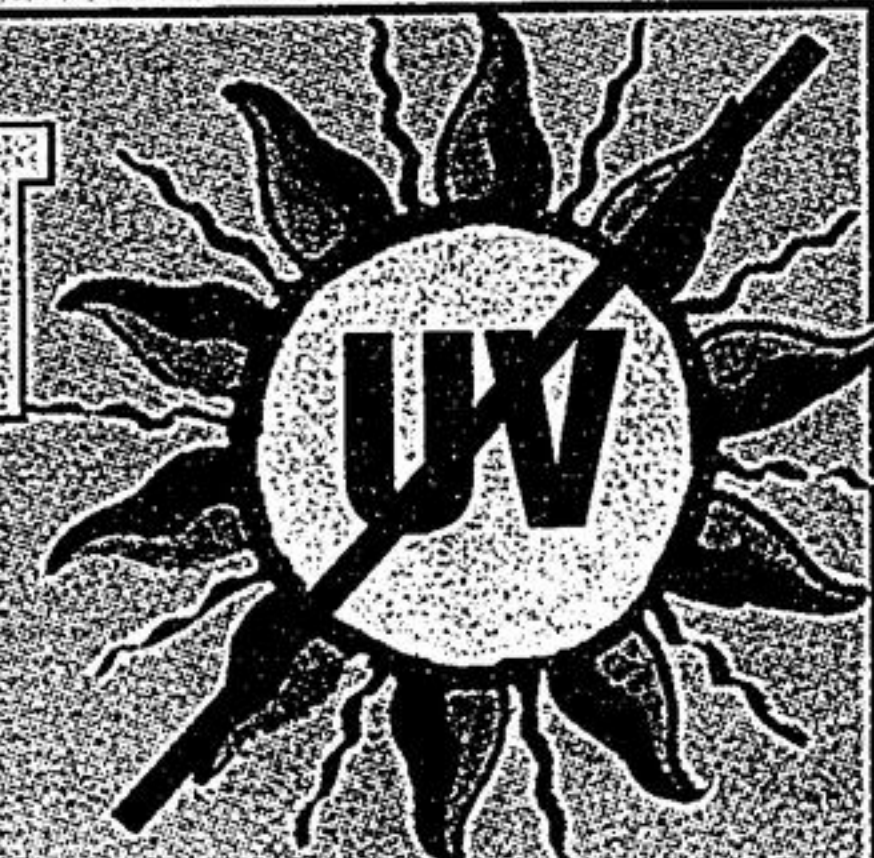
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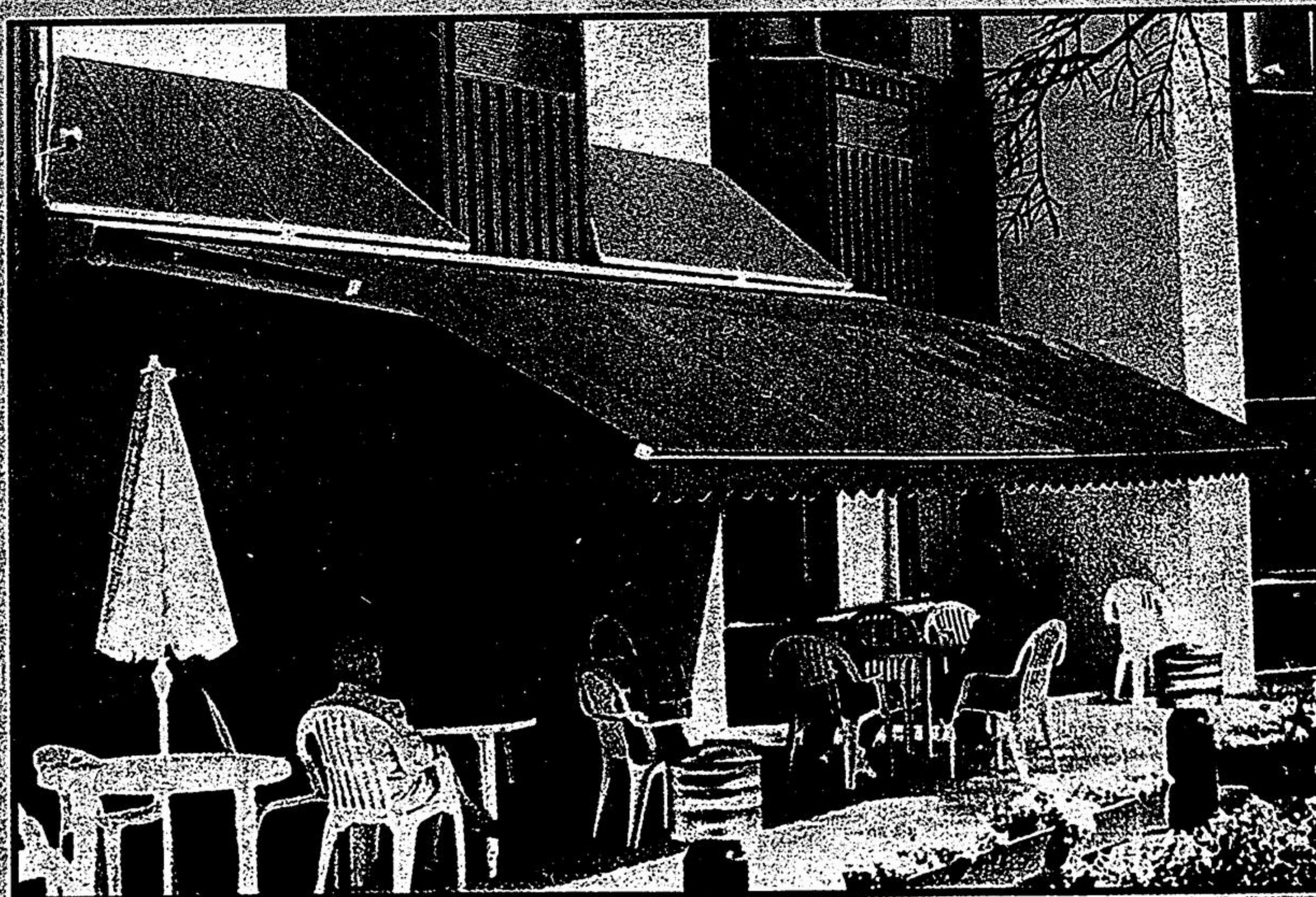
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